

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

The following are my comments on Docket No. 02-277, the
Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I believe
the Commission should retain and expand current regulations limiting media
ownership.

I have not been impressed that the studies commissioned by the Commission
are accurate.

It is helpful to compare worldviews represented by licensees. Perhaps
10-20% of licensees represent a Christian or Jewish world view although
these world views reflect the preference of a majority of listeners
throughout the nation. The current monopoly in station ownership unfairly
promotes a minority secular world view.

The current monopolies also inflate the cost of creating new stations and
buying existing stations so that potential licensees associated with
non-secular world views cannot afford to get into broadcasting. The fact
that the spectrum allocated to broadcasting is limited makes this problem
even worse.

The ability and desire of ownership monopolies to inhibit other voices is
very strongly revealed in the Low Power FM (LPFM) proceedings. Although
the Commission formally found that LPFM stations could be located on 3rd
adjacent channels, ownership monopolies demonstrated that they had more
power than the Commission and had Congress unfairly ban such voices.

The public interest will best be served by preserving and expanding the
media ownership
rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on
this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I will not be able to
attend the hearing because I cannot afford the travel. I strongly
encourage
the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country,
especially in the St. Louis area (my location),
and solicit the widest possible participation from the public.

The
rarified, lawyerly atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an
appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the
freedom of our media are at stake. I encourage the Commissioners to
come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial
interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Dr. Ken Bowles